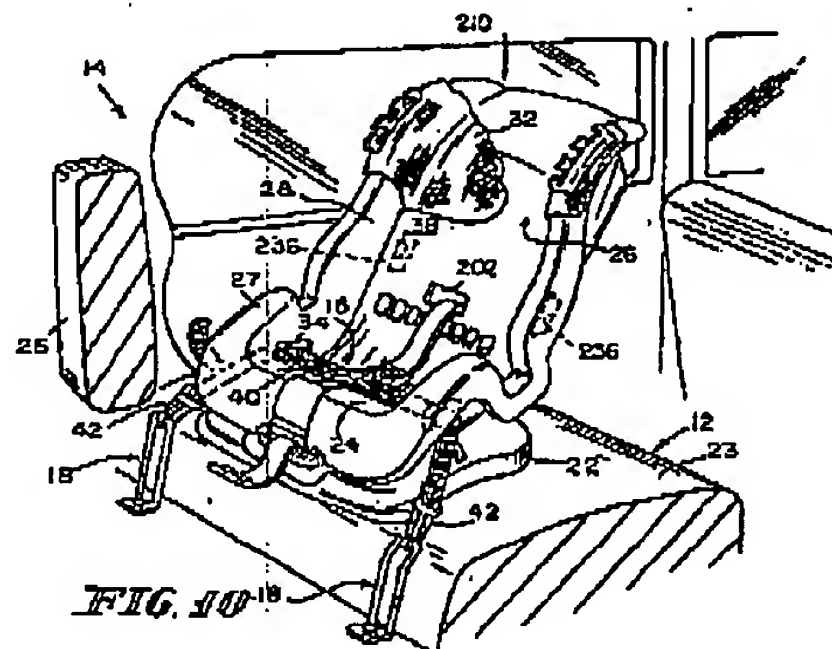


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**REMARKS**

Claims 1-8, 16, 18-25 are rejected, under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), as being anticipated by Kain '183. The Applicant acknowledges and respectfully traverses the raised anticipatory rejection in view of the following remarks.

As the Examiner is aware, in order to fully support an anticipation rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), the cited reference must disclose each and every limitation of the presently claimed invention. With respect to the Examiner's indication that Kain '183 shows the strap being "permanently" fixed via the rivets and leash 20, which in Kain '183 connect through an upper attachment access slot 202 as shown, for example, in FIG. 10, reproduced below, the Applicant notes that Kain's access slot 202 which is molded into the seat back cannot be considered in any manner, the front or rear strap path as recited in claim 1.



Nevertheless, in order to clarify the present invention, the Applicant has amended the independent claims 1, 9, 16, 17 and 18 to include the specific clarifying recitation as in claim 1 wherein the seat "... having a *plurality of parallel aligned* strap paths comprising at least a front strap path and a rear strap path for use when the seat is in the forward facing position and the rearward facing position". While arguably Kain '183 may have somewhat similar slots 34, 236 into which the strap 40 can be exclusively placed, Kain '183 does not disclose, nor suggest in

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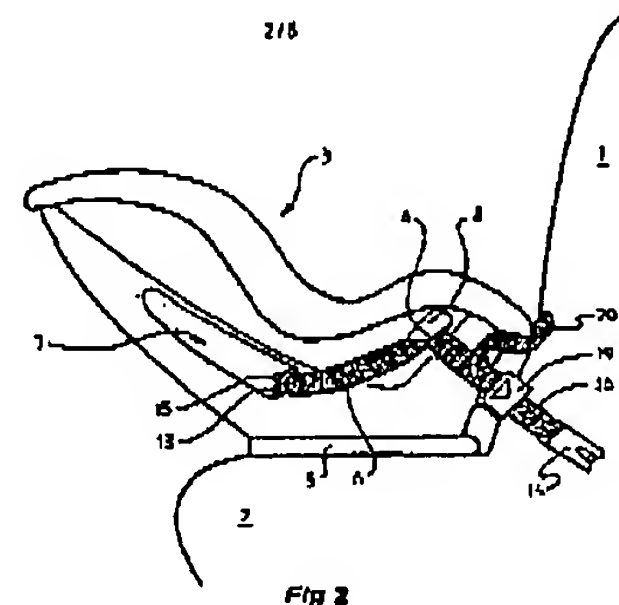
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any manner the specific feature wherein, "... the connecting strap passing through and being *permanently fixed in one of the plurality of strap paths* in the child car seat" as now recited in claim 1. Importantly, the slot 202 in Kain '183 which the Examiner equates to the Applicant's "strap duct" through which the leash portion 20 of the connecting strap 40 extends in Kain '183 is actually perpendicular to the two slots 34, 236 through which the connecting strap 40 can be passed.

The importance of this particular limitation is readily set forth in the Applicant's Background of the Invention at paragraph 007 of the specification "It is important and in some cases mandatory, however, that the connecting strap or straps cannot be removed entirely from the seat because this may encourage people to use the seat without any connecting straps". While arguably the connecting strap in Kain '183 is connected to a leash 20 which is, in turn, fastened by a rivet 48 to the seat back we note that the access point 202 is neither the front or rear strap path but actually a third perpendicular opening which does not correspond to the front and rear strap paths of the Applicant's invention. In view of this, the Applicant has clarified the present invention to note that the connecting strap is permanently fixed in one of the parallel aligned front and rear strap paths.

In addition to the above clarifying amendment, the Applicant also points out that claim 1 has been amended to include the further clarifying feature wherein "... the connecting strap being sufficiently long that respective ends extending from each side of the respective strap path in which the strap is permanently fixed, *can also pass through, and extend out the opposite sides of the front strap path* when the child car seat is in the rearward facing position ...".



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It is important to note that because, as particularly seen in Applicant's FIG. 2 shown above, in the rearward facing position the strap 6 is permanently affixed through the rear strap path 7, the strap 6 extends from and thus passes through both the rear strap path and the front strap path, which are of course substantially parallel.

Again noting the above FIG. 10 of Kain '183, nowhere is it disclosed, taught or suggested that in either the rearward or frontward facing position that the strap 40 extends through *both* the front and rear strap path as specifically recited in Applicant's independent claims.

As claims 3-8 depend directly on claim 1 which is believed allowable in view of the above noted amendments and remarks, the Applicant believes these claims to be allowable as well and thus no further discussion with respect to these claims is provided. Furthermore, claim 16, 17 and 18-25 are also provided with the same or similar amendments and thus are also believed to be allowable.

Claims 9-15 and 17 are rejected, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Kain '183. The Applicant acknowledges and respectfully traverses the raised obviousness rejection in view of the following remarks.

With respect to claims 9, 15 and 17, it is the Applicant's position that at the very least even if it is apparently taught that the leash 20 is fixed by a rivet to the rear of the child vehicle seat, no where is it disclosed, suggested or taught in Kain '183 that the strap itself is permanently affixed into one of the parallel aligned front and rear strap path. In fact, this reference teaches at col. 6 lines 6-29 specifically the opposite of the present invention in that Kain's strap 40 is intended to be taken completely out of one strap path 34, 36 and placed in to the other strap path 34, 36 to achieve a respect first and second anchored position.

It is the very nature of the reference that the strap 40 can be moved between either the front or rear strap path of Kain '183 it is the Applicant's position that this teaches specifically

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away from the specifically claimed aspect of the Applicant's straps "... being sufficiently long that respective ends extending from each side of the respective strap path in which the strap is permanently fixed, can also pass through, and extend out the opposite sides of the front strap path when the child car seat is in the rearward facing position ..." as recited in claim 1, and also in similar language in claims 9 and 16-18.

If any further amendment to this application is believed necessary to advance prosecution and place this case in allowable form, the Examiner is courteously solicited to contact the undersigned representative of the Applicant to discuss the same.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the raised anticipation and obviousness rejections should be withdrawn at this time. If the Examiner disagrees with the Applicant's view concerning the withdrawal of the outstanding rejection(s) or applicability of the Kain '183 reference, the Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to indicate the specific passage or passages, or the drawing or drawings, which contain the necessary teaching, suggestion and/or disclosure required by case law. As such teaching, suggestion and/or disclosure is not present in the applied references, the raised rejection should be withdrawn at this time. Alternatively, if the Examiner is relying on his/her expertise in this field, the Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to enter an affidavit substantiating the Examiner's position so that suitable contradictory evidence can be entered in this case by the Applicant.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the raised anticipation and obviousness rejections should be withdrawn and this application is now placed in a condition for allowance. Action to that end, in the form of an early Notice of Allowance, is courteously solicited by the Applicant at this time.

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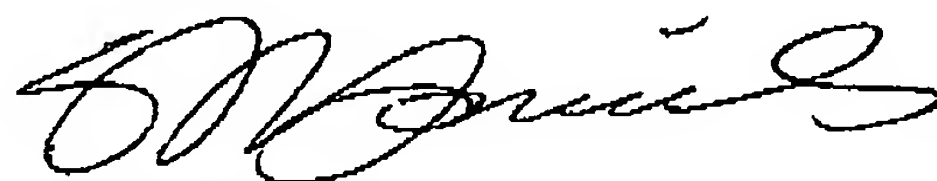
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The Applicant respectfully requests that any outstanding objection(s) or requirement(s), as to the form of this application, be held in abeyance until allowable subject matter is indicated for this case.

In the event that there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please charge the same or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account (Account No. 04-0213).

Respectfully submitted,



Scott A. Daniels, Reg. No. 42,462

Customer No. 020210

Davis & Bujold, P.L.L.C.

Fourth Floor

500 North Commercial Street

Manchester NH 03101-1151

Telephone 603-624-9220

Facsimile 603-624-9229

E-mail: [patent@davisandbujold.com](mailto:patent@davisandbujold.com)

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